

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-04
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: WIEHAHN VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF: A. JOHANNESBURG 1453
B. JOHANNESBURG 1210

1. DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON PROFESSOR
WIEHAHN MET WITH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR SAMUEL,
CHIEF OF DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS IN DEPT OF
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LABOR, EARNEST LEE AND MARK ANDERSON OF THE INTERNATIONAL
DEPT OF THE AFL/CIO, AS WELL AS WITH ACTING DIRECTOR AND
ECONOMIC OFFICER OF AF/S.

2. FOLLOWING VIEWS EXPRESSED BY WIEHAHN ARE BASED UPON
HIS MEETINGS IN STATE AND LABOR. STATING THAT
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LABOR

LEGISLATION HAD NOT YET BEEN CHOSEN, WIEHAHN OUTLINED HIS PERSONAL VIEWS ON THE LABOR SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE POINTED OUT THAT, WHEREAS SOUTH AFRICA HAD A UNITARY ECONOMIC SYSTEM, IT PRESENTLY HAD A DUAL SYSTEM OF LABOR LEGISLATION, ONE FOR WHITES, COLORED AND ASIANS AND ONE FOR BLACKS. HE EXPRESSED HIS STRONG PREFERENCE FOR A UNITARY SYSTEM OF LABOR LEGISLATION AND

RATHER THAN FOR SEPARATE UNIONS DIVIDED ON RACIAL LINES.

HE ALSO PREFERS INDUSTRIAL TO CRAFT UNIONS, BELIEVING THAT INDUSTRIAL UNIONS BETTER FIT HIS BELIEF THAT THE BASIC BARGAINING UNIT SHOULD BE AT THE INDIVIDUAL FACTORY LEVEL RATHER THAN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS.

3. WIEHAHN SAID THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION HAD MET WITH FAVOR IN A VARIETY OF SOUTH AFRICAN CIRCLES, AND HE EXPECTED AND HOPED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PEOPLE TO THE COMMISSION HAVING A WIDE VARIETY OF VIEWS. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME THE APPOINTMENT OF A BLACK UNION LEADER TO THE COMMISSION. HE INDICATED THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION WOULD LIKELY CREATE OPPOSITION, AND HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE COMMISSION TO CAREFULLY EXPLAIN ITS VIEWS TO SAG OFFICIALS AND SOUTH AFRICAN GROUPS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL VIEWS IN ORDER TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

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4. WIEHAHN MENTIONED THE PRESENT POOR TRAINING OF BLACK UNION LEADERS, AND STATED HIS DESIRE THAT THE COMMISSION PERSUADE THE SAG TO SET ASIDE FUNDS FOR TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP TRAINING. HE ALSO EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A RESEARCH SECTION IN THE SAG DEPT OF LABOR AND SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS IN THE LABOR DEPARTMENT REGARDING CONTRACT RESEARCH PROCEDURES, TRENDS IN LABOR MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND LABOR DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS.

5. WIEHAHN ALSO TOLD DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY SAMUEL THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL METAL WORKERS FEDERATION HERMAN REDHAN AND THE HEAD OF THE GERMAN METAL WORKERS FEDERATION WOULD VISIT SOUTH AFRICA NEXT FEBRUARY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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